

IDAHO LOGGING SAFETY NEWS



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Dirk Kempthorne, Governor
Dave Munroe, Administrator
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WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

By David Kludt

This spring has certainly been one of the longest that I can remember. With most of the logging finished in January or early February, the only thing to do was to go to meetings. As you probably noticed, there were plenty to go around. The meetings ranged from first-aid to fire survival safety training, LEAP, sawmill contractors meetings, and log quality meetings to only mention a few. These meetings helped fill in the long dreary hours with nothing else to do besides steelhead fishing, salmon fishing, or turkey hunting. OK, maybe it wasn't all that bad.

In many of the meetings, it wasn't uncommon for someone to say this counts for credits toward your Pro-Logger accreditation. If you didn't know what the heck they're talking about or didn't know if you were accredited or not, you need to do ONE simple thing. Call the Associated Logging Contractors office in Coeur d'Alene (1-800-632-8743) regardless of whether or not you are a member and request the necessary information to make sure you have reached the required status. Even though you think you have the required credit hours, you still need to APPLY through the ALC to complete the process.

We did experience one fatality this winter when a young hooker sustained deadly injuries on a job up north. Hopefully, as we head into the summer, we can avoid any more of these types of tragedies.

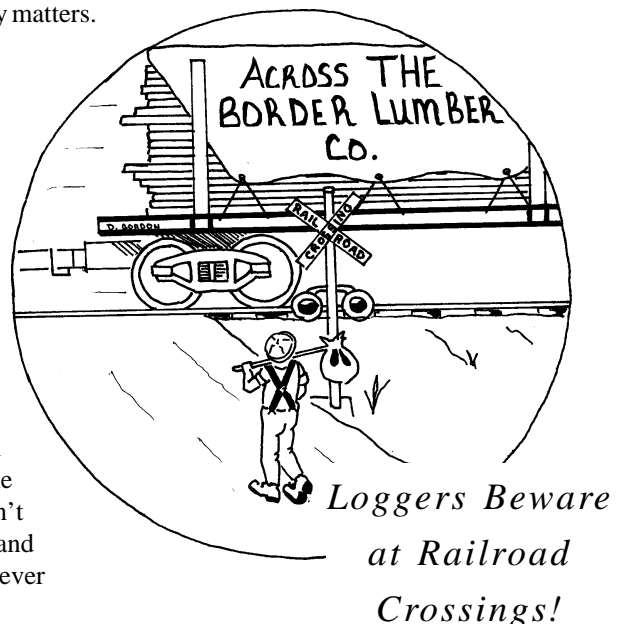
So, what's going to happen this summer? It seems like most of you will be going back to work but with a great deal of caution and concern. I'm sure you are wondering about the saga of both the federal timber and trade agreements and how the end results will affect your summer jobs. What's that have to do with safety? I think by having a secure job and a foreseeable future, your mind automatically concentrates more on the job at hand. I assume part of that job involves safety matters.

With that in mind, have a good, safe summer.

SAFETY MEETINGS, Talk About What Counts

By Cliff Osborne

Mike Knight, the foreman for the line crew on Barham's line side recently asked me to help with a safety meeting. He gathered his crew around the skagit yarder. It was pouring down rain and every one was drenched. Mike promptly brought up the topic of tailhold and guy stumps. He instructed everyone that cedar stump shells are dangerous to tie to because they will crush. He also brought up the importance of direct communication in the backcountry which is crucial if an injury occurred, especially if rescue wasn't available to get them out. The meeting was short, to the point, documented and meant a great deal to the crew. It was one of the best safety meetings I've never spoken at. GOOD JOB Mike!



FIRST-AID TRAINING 2001

With sawmills going down and things looking bleak everywhere, we figured attendance at the annual first-aid training classes would be low this year. WOW! We really miscalculated since nearly 1900 loggers in Idaho went through the training this spring.

We did a few things a little different this year. The machinery peddlers from different areas of the state provided donuts and rolls for a breakfast snack. We wish to extend a big THANK YOU to Western States Equipment—Emmett, Pierce and St. Maries; Rowand Machinery—Potlatch and Deary; Western Peterbuilt—St. Maries; Triad Machinery—Donnelly; Tisco Machine—Grangeville; Scott Machinery—St. Anthony; and Les Schwab Tire—Orofino, Kellogg, Coeur d'Alene, Sandpoint, Bonners Ferry and Salmon. Not only did many of these folks provide food, a group of them stayed and participated in the classes.

The sawmills provided lunch for the loggers who stayed for the afternoon session. Lunch may have been too good because a few loggers were noticed with their eyes closed while listening to the afternoon session. An impressive number of nearly 1000 loggers attended the fire survival training held in the afternoon.

From our standpoint, we certainly appreciate the loggers attending this valuable training and next year we will add or change things to keep it interesting.

David Kludt, Tom Jones (Western States Equipment), Ray Coon (Pierce), and Ken Ahearns (Western States Equipment) try to solve a few more of the world problems



Dianna Hull (yes, that's Don's wife) taking care of all of the paper work as usual. THANKS Dianna!



Jay Wages and Josh Kirk, Les Schwab Tire in Bonners Ferry

Randy Gregg and Roy Nelson, Les Schwab Tire in Sandpoint and Priest River



KEEP AN OPEN MIND

By Don Hull

This spring I attended a faller training program in the St. Maries area that was put on by Potlatch Corporation and OSHA.

Paul Cyr, who is based in Washington, D.C., conducted an hour of classroom training. Paul is the main man in logging safety for OSHA nation wide. During this training session, Paul talked about the rules and how his people work from compliance standards to implement rules. He said he held a four-hour class in the Clearwater area. Those loggers had a lot of trouble sitting around listening to rules for that long, so the class was shortened by three hours just for us.

The best part of the program was watching and listening to Mike Thurlow, a very professional logger from Maine. Mike's personality produced an environment for very easy learning. He made it clear that the things he was showing and teaching us were just added tools to try to make our jobs safer. His message was not to encourage change but to simply give us more ways to train new people for safety in different situations.

Basically, Mike showed us how to use an open face undercut and use a bore cut to make the back cut from the inside out. The interesting thing here was the fact that the open face was a 70 to



*Mike Thurlow and
Wendall Brown*

90 degree opening and only went into the tree far enough to get about 80% of the diameter. On a 20-inch tree that was about 2 inches into the tree. It was intriguing and a little scary that the undercut was only about 4 inches deep on a 5-foot cedar. I suspect this will be a good tool for some trees depending on the diameter and species.

I liked Mike's approach because the main thing he focused on was having a clean undercut. It's a known fact that Dutch cuts don't work no matter what undercut you use. Wendall Brown, a logger from the St. Maries area, fell a nice red fir with a humbolt undercut. Paul asked Virgil Howell (OSHA Logging Inspector from Idaho) to critique the stump and he found it to be very OSHA correct.

The program also included a little log boring competition on a prop stump that Mike was using to show how a hinge works. Tim Carpenter, a cutter from St. Maries, won \$20. I'm sure he is one of the few people that will ever get money from OSHA!

Overall, this was a positive effort by OSHA to help improve safety. It helped give us a better idea of what they are looking for and a little added education that never hurt anyone, especially me.



INLAND FORESTRY

Jim Riggers, Inland Forestry out of Craigmont and his crew Mike Langston-loader operator and Dave Lyons-line machine operator and buckner.

Jim runs a modest three-man operation that can do about any type of logging. He has a small Kohler line machine, a loader with tong throwing capability and a small cat for the ground skidding. After logging for the last 12 years, Jim realizes the benefit of having versatile employees who can do more than one job. He especially realizes how hard it would be to replace one of them if they were injured. It's obvious that safety is high on his list of priorities. Good work guys!

--- NEWS FLASH ---

Starting this season ALL LOGGERS will take a break EVERY 30 MINUTES to do STRETCHING EXERCISES

By Galen Hamilton

I'm taking a wild guess here, but I think I caught the attention of every logging contractor, truck owner and logger in the state of Idaho with this news flash. Now if you guys would only stop calling me names and making unflattering remarks about my IQ, I will proceed with this article. There, that's better.

The straight skinny on this logging safety stuff is that lumberjacks are doing a superb job out there. To stop accidents from being "just part of the job", these guys formed a safety mind set and followed through with it. The continuing decline in accidents is proof of their success.

However, one type of injury that has always been hard to prevent is back problems, which is the result of every day work. Rolling over machinery or getting whacked by a tree can injure loggers, but solutions can be found to help eliminate these types of hazards. When one of the crew does their job perfectly while operating a skid cat, log truck or processor and still ends up with a bad back, it just doesn't seem fair. We probably can't eliminate the problem entirely, but maybe there are one or two simple things we can try.

Experts have stated that sitting in one place for more than thirty minutes can cause damage to your back. The experts also state that if there is any jarring, jerking or bouncing involved in that time, the damage is increased. I'm not an expert, but I think I have witnessed a SLIGHT amount of jarring, jerking and bouncing while watching you loggers do your job.

What can we do about it? Simple, let's begin by taking another look at the title of this article. Now, there you go with the name calling again. Actually, I do understand how impractical it

would be to stop working every 30 minutes to stretch. One job that comes to mind is truck drivers and with more sawmills shutting down each year, the length of their haul increases. If those drivers stopped every 30 minutes, they wouldn't make it back to the woods until Thanksgiving. If there isn't an opportunity to stop, the experts suggest you at least make an effort to stretch.

They suggest taking one arm and stretching it as if you were trying to touch the windshield with your elbow, then doing the same with the other arm. Do this several times. Then, stretch toward the top of the cab, then toward the part of the cab behind you. The experts did say something about leaving one hand on the steering wheel at all times... whatever. It was also suggested to stretch your legs out and to use proper posture. Truck drivers were used as an example because of the long hours they spend sitting behind the wheel. It's just human nature to slump over after a period of time, which causes increased damage to our backs.

Mechanically, work in the woods has advanced. It seems like the majority of loggers are sitting in one type of machine or another. With the importance of production increasing every day, the push is to run those machines continually. I know I am on touchy ground here, but I wonder if having the operators step out of their machines every so often wouldn't pay off in the long run. (Boy, am I going to get yelled at by those contractors?)

Actually, I should give the contractors a break. The majority of them are honestly very concerned about keeping their crew healthy. On my last job, the boss wanted to bolt an outhouse on the side of the loader so I wouldn't have to get down, but he is getting even nicer in his old age. Keep up the good work!



**DARBY
LOGGING,
TROY
IDAHO**

*Mark Darby's "Big Bird"
thunderbird yarder*

Robin Welter, representing the C-PTPA (Clearwater Potlatch Timber Protective Association) prepares to start his wild fire survival training class in St. Anthony. These classes were presented through the combined efforts of the Idaho Department of Lands, the USFS, and the C-PTPA. The goal of these classes was to offer the necessary safety training needed to operate chain saws and equipment on fires that are burning on state or federal land. Their message was "here is how you stay out of a bad situation, but in case you foul up, this is what you should remember to do". This is some more information that is not really crucial, UNTIL YOU NEED IT!

Robin is one of those north Idaho fellows who thinks the edge of the earth is just south of Grangeville, so traveling to Salmon and St. Anthony was quite an eye opener. Since the fire training sessions were held in conjunction with the first-aid classes, Robin traveled with Cliff and Galen. Some say he may never be the same again!

Honestly though, Robin is one of those people who cuts through the malarkey and talks about what is really important. Loggers really appreciate that. GOOD JOB ROBIN!



*St. Anthony Logger Training
Classes, Robin Welter*



WILDLIFE TREES

By Cliff Osborne

What first came to my mind when I thought of a wildlife tree was if I build a tree stand in this type of tree, would I be able to blast that 30 point buck with a high-powered rifle and finally possess the trophy I always dreamed of getting?

After doing careful research with some wildlife biologists and other ologists, I discovered that wildlife trees were to be used for a more noble purpose. A wildlife tree would be used to provide habitat for squirrels, birds, bats, bears or whatever type of critters that choose to use it after it has been preserved by a logger.

Let's look at the specifics of what kind of tree should be left as a wildlife tree and the safety issues involved with that decision. My opinion of an unstable snag is to put it on the ground as quickly as possible so the next logger down the line won't have to deal with it or the potential hazards. If the faller leaves a hazard snag stand, then the hooker on the strip has to worry about getting hit. If the logging process is completed and that snag is preserved, the clear-cut will be burnt and the snag will fall over, more times than not, because fire will

weaken the root structure. The point is most of the time rotten or catfaced snags are unable to make the journey from logging to reforestation, so let's choose a wildlife tree that will make that journey and will also maintain safety. A tree that is green and fairly large in diameter and stumpy would be a wise choice. This type of tree won't be easily destroyed by fire or be blown over in time. This tree is usually a cull and leaving it stand won't create a safety hazard.

One of the most important aspects for success is a good line of communication and understanding between the timber faller and sale administrator because every snag may not need to be cut. This communication is important if a problem does arise with a wildlife tree so the sawyer will be able to make the proper safety call.

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HANSEN LOGGING, HARVARD, IDAHO

The benefits of a slack pulling carriage

There are several reasons why loggers use a slack pulling carriage. Increased production and the number of safety aspects involved are two very important reasons. The easier a line pulls, the less chance there is for injury or strain, also the chokers don't get tangled up when the carriage stops on the skyline. The hooker can quickly reach in and grab the chokers and hit the switch on his belt to signal slack. This definitely decreases his time under the skyline.

Another benefit of the slack pulling carriage is found on the landing. The yarder operator can give the chaser slack to the choker.



Dan Pollack-operator

HANSEN LOGGING CREW



Lonnie Nicholson-sawyer



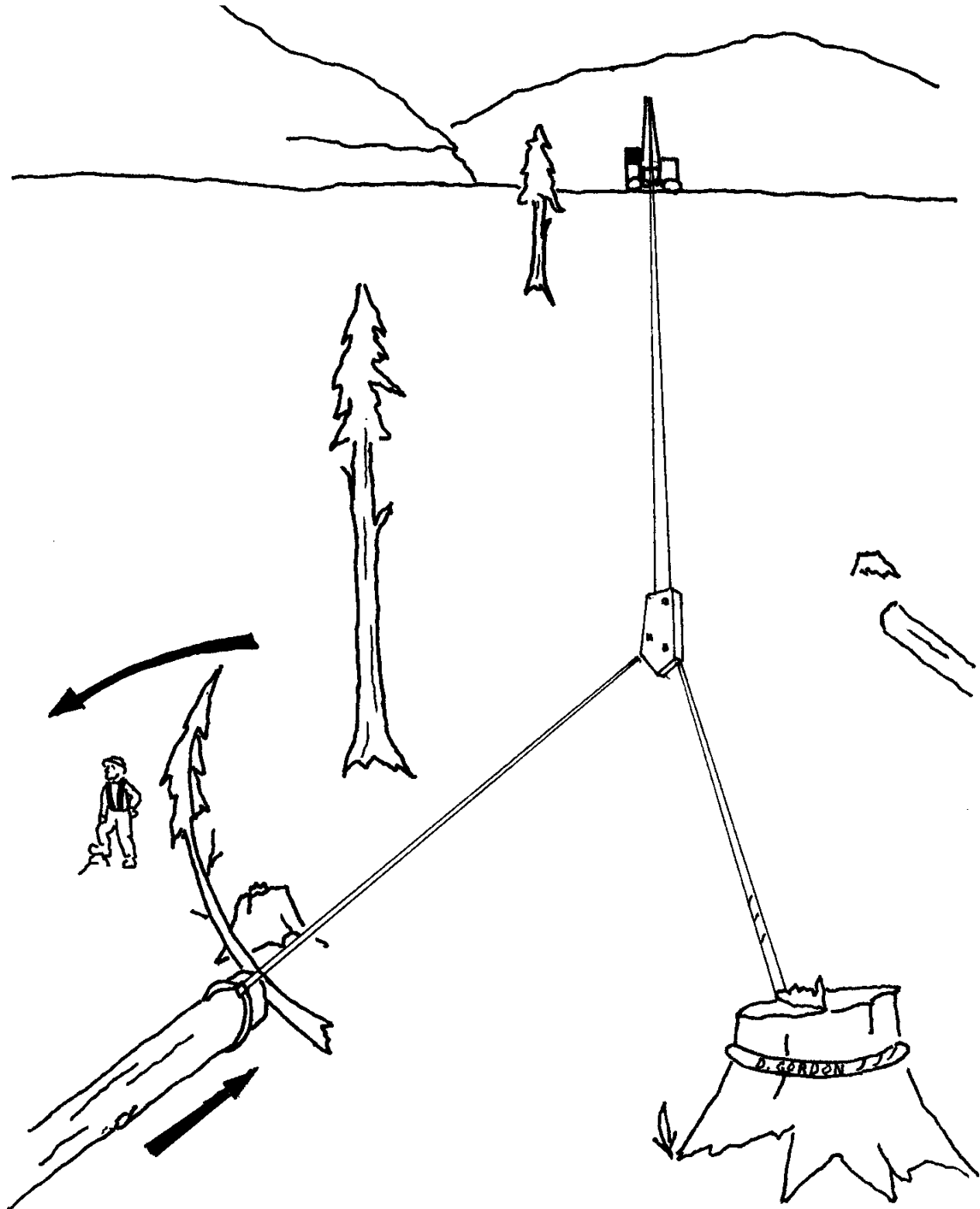
Ryan Beckner-hooker.



Kelly McGreal-hooker

FATALITY Number 1 2001

A hooker was fatally injured when an unknown object struck him as the drag went past him. He apparently gave the go-ahead before he was entirely in the clear.



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